

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
VITAL STATISTICS, 1953 - (PRELIMINARY)

The following preliminary particulars for 1953 are published subject to slight revision, with particulars for 1952 in parentheses.

Births Registered. - The number of births registered was 18,156 (17,884) an increase of 272. For the years 1929 to 1941, the number of births was lower than in earlier years and in 1935 there were only 8,270 which was the lowest since 1876. From 1936 onwards there has been almost a continuous increase to the record total of 18,156 in 1953. Although the actual number registered was a record, the rate per 1,000 of mean population of 23.97 (24.18) was much lower than in the earlier years of the State and it also was lower than the rates in recent years, having fallen from 25.25 in 1947.

Actual Births. A period of 42 days after birth is permitted for registration and the number of births registered in a year therefore differs from the number of births actually occurring during the year. The numbers of registered and actual births during recent years have been:- 1948 - 15,870 and 16,091; 1949 - 16,042 and 16,204, 1950 - 17,306 and 17,320; 1951 - 17,463 and 17,318, 1952 - 17,884 and 17,900. The number of actual births for 1953 is not yet available.

Sexes of Births. The number of boys compared with 100 girls born does not vary greatly and in recent years has been:- 1949 - 105.64; 1950 - 105.39; 1951 - 105.45, 1952 - 104.55 and 1953 - 106.11.

Adoptions. 480 (403) children were legally adopted during the year.

Legitimations numbered 63 (68).

Deaths Registered. 6,962 (7,050) a decrease of 88 on the previous year and of 222 on the record total for 1951, the rate being 9.19 (9.53). The 1953 death rate is the lowest since 1937. The numbers dying from the various causes are not yet available for 1953 and hence comparisons cannot be made.

Infantile Mortality. Deaths of children under 1 year were 375 (413). The infantile death rate, or the number of deaths of children under 1 year per 1,000 births during the year of calculation, was 20.65 (23.09). This rate was less than the record low of the previous year. For the Australian States, the only lower rate was that of 20.09 for Victoria in 1950. The S.A. rate is one of the lowest in the world and has shown a remarkable decrease. Eighty years ago it was 150, sixty years ago it was 100, thirty years ago it was 60 and 25 years ago it was more than double the present rate.

There were 106 (122) deaths of children under 1 day, 148 (146) of children from 1 day to 1 month and 121 (145) of those from 1 month but under 1 year. Compared with earlier years there has been a distinct decrease in the death rate of children under 1 month but a far greater decrease in respect to children from 1 month and under 1 year.

Deaths of infants from certain causes for 1953 (1952) have been:- Diarrhoea 12 (19), Congenital Malformations 67 (76), Prematurity 79 (107), Injury at birth 43 (39), Other diseases peculiar to early infancy 82 (58), Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis 5 (2), Meningitis 2 (5), Whooping Cough 1 (3), Diphtheria - (-), Measles - (-), Pneumonia 41 (56), Hernia & Intestinal obstruction 8 (3) and all other causes 35 (45).

Still Births. These are not included in either births or deaths and they number 287 (320).

Marriages. The number of marriages celebrated was 6,149 (6,241) and the rate per 1,000 of population was 8.12 (8.44). The record number of marriages was 8,129 with a rate of 13.34 in 1942 and the lowest in recent years was 5,321 with a rate of 8.48 in 1945. Marriages in the Registration Office totalled 707 (689).

SUMMARY RETURN. The following return shows the number of births deaths and marriages, the rate per 1,000 of mean population, the number of infantile deaths and the rate per 1,000 births.

PERIOD	BIRTHS REGISTERED		MARRIAGES		DEATHS REGISTERED			
	No.	Rate (a)			Total		Infants	
			No.	Rate(a)	No.	Rate(a)	No.	Rate (b)
Mean								
1920-24	11,857	23.43	4,326	8.55	4,901	9.68	693	58.45
1925-29	11,301	20.16	4,225	7.54	5,034	8.98	526	46.54
1930-34	8,989	15.54	3,660	6.33	5,001	8.65	342	38.05
1935-39	9,039	15.32	5,305	8.99	5,430	9.20	297	32.85
1940-44	11,743	19.30	6,843	11.25	6,235	10.25	406	34.57
1945-49	15,613	24.09	6,328	9.77	6,369	9.83	427	27.33
Year								
1949	16,042	23.80	6,247	9.27	6,373	9.45	445	27.74
1950	17,306	24.72	6,585	9.40	6,740	9.63	416	24.04
1951	17,463	24.25	6,646	9.23	7,184	9.98	428	24.51
1952	17,884	24.18	6,241	8.44	7,050	9.53	413	23.09
1953	18,156	23.97	6,149	8.12	6,962	9.19	375	20.65

(a) Per 1,000 of Mean Population.

(b) Per 1,000 Births.

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